

# **\*\*ATTENTION\*\***

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**Brandt's Cormorant**

*Phalacrocorax Penicillatus*

**Range:**

Breeds along the coast from southern Alaska southward to Baja California and the Gulf of California (Guiguet 1971).

**Washington Distribution:**

Resident along the Pacific coast of Washington.

**Habitat Requirements:**

Brandt's cormorants are found in rocky shore and open salt water habitats of Washington (Wahl and Paulson 1985). They nest in colonies on rocks or islands that are isolated from mammalian predators. Nests are large (up to one foot high) and often constructed of sticks, twigs, and grasses including fine eel-grasses. Egg-laying begins in mid-June, with young hatching around one month later (Guiguet 1971). Brandt's cormorants feed upon fish, which are captured underwater (Gabrielson and Jewett 1970, Guiguet 1971).

**Limiting Factors:**

Brandt's cormorants are probably limited by factors associated with other seabird survival: the availability of undisturbed nesting and roosting sites, sufficient food supplies, and ocean pollution (Nelson 1979).

**Management Recommendations:**

Protect nesting colonies from destruction and human disturbance. Gulls and crows can be serious predators on young cormorants. Human activities, which could cause adults to temporarily flush from the nest, leaving eggs and young vulnerable to predators, should not occur from mid-June through the end of August.

**References:**

Guiguet, C.J. 1971. The birds of British Columbia, Volume 9: Diving birds and tube-nosed swimmers. B.C. Provincial Museum Handbook No. 29.

Gabrielson, I.N. and S.G. Jewett. 1970. Birds of the Pacific Northwest. Dover Publications, Inc., New York.

Nelson, B. 1979. Seabirds: their biology and ecology. A&W Publishers, Inc., New York.